

Serial No. 10/505,481
Docket No. 28951.2175

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8, as amended, remain herein.

1. Applicants have amended Claim 3 mooted the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

2. Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Otani U.S. Published Patent Application 20030011307.

Otani discloses a discharge cell configuration for making the distance between the address electrode and the scan electrode in the second discharge space C2 smaller than that in the first discharge space C1. Otani's reduction of this distance stabilizes address discharge and improves light emission efficiency. Otani's priming particle generating layer (30) is formed on dielectric (14), which is formed on data electrode (D) of an address discharge cell having the second discharge space C2. Further, Otani's priming particle generating layer (30) is formed by ultraviolet ray emission material having a decay characteristic such that it is excited by ultraviolet rays with a predetermined wavelength; see Otani paragraph 0191. Thus, Otani's priming particle generating layer (30) does not disclose applicants' claimed priming electrode.

Otani also discloses that conductor layer (61) is exposed to the priming space. In addition, Otani's conductor layer (61) is electrically coupled to a data electrode (D) with through hole (63). Thus, Otani's conductor layer 61 is not a priming electrode independent of the data electrode as claimed by applicants.

Otani discloses that priming discharges are generated by supplying a voltage to the data electrode. Thus, Otani does not disclose supplying different voltage signals to the data electrode

Serial No. 10/505,481
Docket No. 28951.2175

and the priming electrode as claimed by applicants.

Otani divides each priming space into small sections by a partition wall only to carry out address discharge through the use of the data electrode. Thus, Otani does not disclose forming a gap part of continuous groove shape in parallel with the scan electrode and the sustain electrode as claimed by applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Otani does not disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for a §102 rejection thereof. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in Otani that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Thus reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

3. Claims 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Otani.

Otani's priming particle generating layer (30) is formed on dielectric (14), which is formed on data electrode (D) of an address discharge cell having the second discharge space C2. Further, Otani's priming particle generating layer (30) is formed by ultraviolet ray emission material having a decay characteristic such that it is excited by ultraviolet rays with a predetermined wavelength; see Otani paragraph 0191. Thus, Otani's priming particle generating layer (30) does not disclose applicants' claimed priming electrode. Further, Otani discloses that priming discharges are generated by supplying a voltage to the data electrode. Thus, Otani does not disclose supplying different voltage signals to the data electrode and the priming electrode as claimed by applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in Otani that would

Serial No. 10/505,481
Docket No. 28951.2175

have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in Otani that would have suggested the desirability of modifying any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' claimed invention. Thus reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.


Accordingly, the application is now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.2175). If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

Date: August 15, 2006

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-429-3000
Fax: 202-429-3902
RWP:TYW/mnl



Roger W. Parkhurst, Reg. No. 25,177
Tyson Y. Winarski, Reg. No. 41,381